



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

October 13, 2017

Office of
International and
Tribal Affairs

U.S. Department of State
Office of Designation
SA-44, 6TH Floor
301 4th Street SW
Washington, DC 20547

Annual Report J-Nonimmigrant Exchange Visitor Program

Program Effectiveness

EPA's work with foreign nationals under the J-1 Visa Student and Exchange Visitors Program (SEVP) Program Number G-3-00345 has included research in water and soil assessment, monitoring of air and water for human exposure assessment, testing of ambient air particulate matter, performance of nano particles, and risk assessment for chemicals, urban land use and green infrastructure for safe and sustainable water resources.

During the reporting period. - 10/01/2016 to 09/30/2017. The Research Scholar, Patricia Villela e Silva is a doctoral student at the Institute of Biosciences in Botucatu, São Paulo University, who was awarded a scholarship for the Research Internships Abroad Project and did her internship with Dr. Gary Klinefelter. She ran a study in which the goal was to evaluate the effects of sub chronic treatment with bupropion and simvastatin on sperm parameters and fertility in adult rats. Rats were dosed with both compounds and a mixture of the two for 51 days. The endpoints were to evaluate sperm parameters and testicular and epididymal histology, identify and quantify proteins associated with fertility, evaluate the *in vitro* synthesis of testosterone by Leydig cells after the *in vivo* exposure to the drugs and correlate fertility after *in utero* artificial insemination with the above mentioned parameters. During her time here she learned multiple techniques associated with the collection, processing and analysis of these endpoints. These data are being used as part of her doctoral thesis.

Trends/Changes:

EPA again has seen a slight increase in the processing of the J-1 Visa Research Scholars during this reporting period.

New Initiatives

EPA has no new initiatives planned at this time.

Difficulties.

EPA has not encountered any difficulties in the processing of the J-1 Visa Research Scholars during this period.

Reciprocity

Reciprocity has been none.

Cross-Cultural Activities

The Research Scholar rented a room from a professor at Duke so she lived in a Durham neighborhood in a typical home. She did have friends that she made from Duke and was able to travel to the Outer Banks and Washington DC. One of the first things she did was to find a local bike shop that sold second hand bikes. She volunteered for a couple of hours, and in exchange they gave her a bike! She used that bike to ride to and from the bus stop on the weekends. She also enrolled in Durham Tech for some English classes. She spent much of her free time writing her doctoral thesis. She took a Durham city Tour.

Staff

EPA Alternative Responsible Officer (ARO) dedicates 0.25 FTE in processing the Agency's J-1 Visa Research Scholars.

Comments:

There continues to be an interest within the Agency to work with foreign research scholars on scientific matters that will benefit the environment. We look forward to fostering new exchanges in the next year.



Katrina D. Cherry, Responsible Officer

Office of International and Tribal Affairs



Katrina Cherry

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20460

Include This Information on Any Attachments

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PROGRAM EVALUATION

A core mission of the Exchange Visitor Program is to promote mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries through educational and cultural exchanges. Your comments and assessments help us present the success of our shared mission of exchange to Congress, interested government agencies, and International agencies and organizations. Please provide brief responses to the following questions.

1. **Summary:** Provide a brief summary of the activities in which exchange visitors were engaged, including:

1A. **Program Effectiveness:** Please provide an evaluation of program effectiveness including a description of one or two brief success stories that occurred during the reporting period.

1B. **Trends/Changes:** Describe any new directions, trends or significant changes that have occurred in your program during the reporting period.

1C. **New Initiatives:** Describe any new initiatives that you are planning in the upcoming year.

2. **Difficulties:** What difficulties are you having that are working against the quality and quantity of exchanges in your program and in the broader Exchange Visitor Program?

Examples: Credible employers, job availability, wages, housing, Consular Official/Visa issues, etc.

3. **Reciprocity:** Describe the nature and extent of reciprocity occurring in your exchange visitor program during the reporting year. If none, state: none.

4. **Cross-Cultural Activities:** Provide a summary of the cross-cultural activities you as a sponsor provided for your exchange visitors during the reporting year and your other efforts as a sponsor to ensure cultural exchange for your exchange visitors.

5. **Staff:** Identify the number of staff (*full and part time*) used in the administration of your exchange visitor program.

Examples: Private sector entities should include total local and regional representatives, independent contractors, third parties, foreign agents, and volunteers.

6. **Other comments:**

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information in this report is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and, that the above named program sponsor has complied with all health and accident insurance requirements for exchange visitors and their accompanying spouses and dependents [22 CFR 62.14].

Katrina Cherry

Name of Responsible Officer (*Printed or Typed*)



Signature of Responsible Officer (*Signed*)

10/13/17

Date (*mm-dd-yyyy*)

SEVIS Run Date: Wed Oct 11 2017

Submission of Form DS-3097 shall be sent to:

U.S. Department of State
Office of Designation
SA-44, 6th Floor
301 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20547

Or By Email: EVAdministration@state.gov or AGExchanges@state.gov